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Tuesday 12th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

**RE: reopening of schools.**

You will have seen the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday heralding various additional documents published yesterday on the reopening of schools in England. These state that primary schools should prepare to open for pupils in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 on Monday 1st June "at the earliest". Furthermore, the government is ambitious for all primary pupils to "return to school before the summer for a month if feasible". Secondaries should also prepare to open next half-term to provide "some face-to-face contact" for pupils heading towards public examinations in 2021 (i.e. years 10 and 12). The exact form this will take and date for these secondary year groups to come back is yet to be clarified. Meanwhile, special schools should "work towards welcoming back as many children and pupils as can safely be catered for in their setting".

As you would expect, the Trust is now accelerating its planning to meet these newly announced timeframes for priority year groups. This involves undertaking enhanced health and safety and hygiene measures, including implementation of social distancing wherever possible in line with the government's "Covid-19 Secure" guidance. When pupils and staff come back to school it will look and feel quite different to how it was when they last attended under normal conditions in March. A full induction will be given to everyone about these new arrangements on their return.

Like you, we are keen that schools should be fully operating as soon as they can and do not want them to remain closed to any pupils for a day longer than necessary. However, the current global pandemic is likely to cause significant disruption to life as normal for some time to come. To continue supporting as many pupils as we can, in addition to whole year groups returning in a phased way from June to follow the normal curriculum, our childcare arrangements for vulnerable pupils and key workers will carry on and so too will online/remote learning for pupils still at home.

Your child's academy principal will write to you in due course with further details, setting out arrangements for pupils' return over a phased period and how their academy will operate safely under these extraordinary circumstances. In the meantime, we appreciate your efforts to continue supporting your son or daughter to learn at home using the systems we have put in place. Keeping our pupils learning means making sure they are in the best position to make up any lost ground on their return to school.

Yours faithfully,

**Simon Beamish**  
**Chief Executive**